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Message Text

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15
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 COME-00 SS-15 OES-06 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /056 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT:TL
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EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
EUR/P:FSEIDNER
USIA:PARNOLD
C:JMONTGOMERY
COMMERCE:AJENKENS
S/S - RGAMBLE
---------- 068987
P R 150012Z OCT 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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BONN FOR HERBERT WILGIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:HU, EXC, PFOR

SUBJECT: INITIALING OF CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE
AGREEMENT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS FROM EMBASSY BONN THAT MIKE GETLER, WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT BASED IN BONN, PLANS TO VISIT BUDAPEST NEXT WEEK AND, INTER ALIA, WILL BE INTERESTED IN REPORTING ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS. EMBASSY BONN HAS ADVISED GETLER TO CONTACT
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EMBASSY BUDAPEST (PAO DACHI).

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2. WHILE DEPARTMENT SEES NO REASON IN PRINCIPLE NOT TO MAKE PUBLIC FACT THAT TEXT OF BILATERAL CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT INITIALED ON OCTOBER 14, WE DO NOT WISH TO UPSTAGE ACTUAL SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT. ALSO, WE BELIEVE THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT DISTINCTION BETWEEN INITIALING AND SIGNING WILL NOT BE CLEARLY DRAWN IN PRESS REPORTING. THEREFORE, DEPARTMENT PREFERS THAT EMBASSY SIMPLY ADVISE GETLER, AND ANY OTHER CORRESPONDENTS WHO MAY INQUIRE, THAT USG AND GOH HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATING EXCHANGE AGREEMENT AND THAT WE HOPE IT WILL BE COMPLETED IN NEAR FUTURE. EMBASSY MAY ALSO POINT OUT THAT THIS INITIATIVE STEMS FROM SIGNING OF CSCE FINAL ACT AT HELSINKI IN AUGUST 1975.

3. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE ASKED DIRECTLY WHETHER AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED OR INITIALED, YOU MAY INDICATE THE FACT OF INITIALING, EMPHASIZING THAT THIS HAS BEEN DONE TO SHOW THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE TO DATE AND THAT THE COMPLETE AGREEMENT IS NOT YET READY FOR SIGNATURE.

4. WE ASSUME GOH WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO LINE INDICATED IN PARA 2 AND 3 ABOVE. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO CONFIRM WITH GOH.

5. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ADVISABLE TO INDICATE AT THIS TIME THAT WE ARE AIMING FOR SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S VISIT TO BUDAPEST ON NOVEMBER 24-25. WHILE WE AGREE WITH THIS OBJECTIVE, IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN AT THIS POINT THAT IT CAN BE MET. (SEPTEL COVERS PROPOSED HANDLING OF NEGOTIATION OF PROGRAM DOCUMENT.) FURTHERMORE, SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S PLANS HAVE NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC.
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